ABOUT THIS PACKET

The Reading Passages in this packet allow students to work on comprehension skills after reading the passage several times searching for evidence.

TASK	OVERVIEW
TASK 1: FILL IN THE BLANK	Using Close Reading strategies, students will use context clues to fill in the missing words in the reading passage. This will then be used as the main passage to use for the remaining tasks.
TASK 2: VOCABULARY	This vocabulary activity helps kids identify and understand new or unfamiliar words before they complete further activities.
TASK 3: RESPOND	Students will choose from three writing prompts and write their answer to just one of them using complete sentences.
TASK 4: TRUE OR FALSE	Students complete this activity to show overall comprehension of the passage. They may refer back to the passage when necessary. In the end they add up the TRUE statements.
TASK 5: MULTIPLE CHOICE	For a quick formative check for understanding, students will answer 10 multiple choice questions.
TASK 6: WORD SEARCH	Students will search for key vocabulary words related to the topic. Several unused letters will spell out a secret message.
FINAL TASK: SUMMARY (OPTIONAL)	This is an optional summary graphic organizer to use if needed. Could be used for early finishers, an extension activity, or as a final check for understanding.

GRADE LEVEL	RANGE
4	MIDDLE
4	END
5	BEGINNING
5	MIDDLE
5	END
6	BEGINNING
6	MIDDLE
6	END
7	BEGINNING

SAMPLE

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Name:

TASK #1: FILL IN THE BLANK

EARN THIS!

Directions: Use the words below to fill in the reading.

[illegible]	square	god
Iraq	tablets	rain
Assyrians	storms	four

Mesopotamia, meaning "the land between rivers," was located between the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers in the Middle East (mostly present-day _____). There, the first civilizations came into existence thousands of years ago. A civilization is a group of people with their own way of life. Mesopotamia featured _____ major empires or civilizations.

Very large and tall step-like structures were created as places of worship. These structures, known as ziggurats, were located in major cities. The ziggurats honored the main _____ of each city. Mesopotamia had a polytheistic religion, which meant they worshipped many deities or gods. Ea was the god of wisdom and magic, Anu was the god of the sky, and Enlil was the god of the earth, _____, and agriculture.

Ziggurats were built by different groups of early civilizations. The first ziggurat was built in Ur, the capital city of the Sumerians. The ziggurats were referred to as Etemenanki by the Sumer which meant "the foundation of heaven and earth." The Babylonians, Akkadians, and _____ continued the tradition of building ziggurats as places of worship. Sumerians created a form of writing called cuneiform and used clay _____ to inscribe written documents and record stories. Today, this is how we know a lot about them.

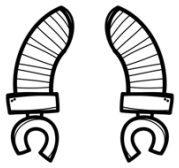
The structures were built with _____ bricks on the inside, while the outside was made with baked bricks. The bricks were dried under the sun. Hundreds of thousands of bricks were used to make just one ziggurat. The mud bricks were not very sturdy and because of the _____ and rain, the structures had to be rebuilt multiple times after falling apart.

The ziggurats resembled Egyptian pyramids, but they were not used as tombs. Ziggurats had a _____ base, with the structure at the bottom being the largest and getting smaller as it went up. Unlike a pyramid, some had steps that led to the upper levels but there were no chambers (rooms) or passageways

SAMPLE

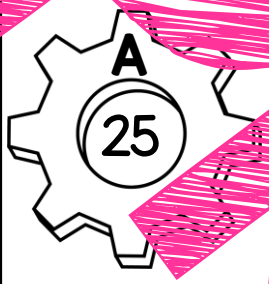
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TASK #4: TRUE OR FALSE

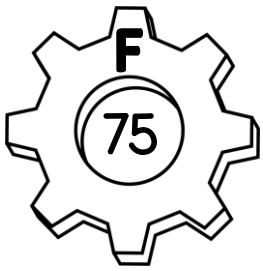


EARN THIS!

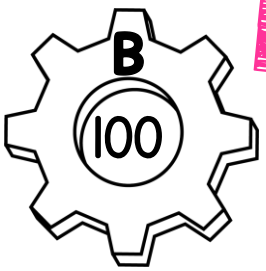
Read each statement below and determine if it is true or false. If the statement is true, color the gear that corresponds to that question. If it is false, cross out the gear. When you are finished add the TOTAL of ALL TRUE gears.



A. Mesopotamian religion was polytheistic which means they worshipped multiple gods.



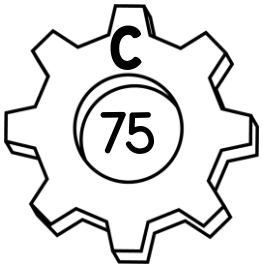
B. The ziggurats resembled Egyptian pyramids, but they were not used as tombs.



C. Much of the knowledge about Ancient Mesopotamia comes from the Library of Nineveh.



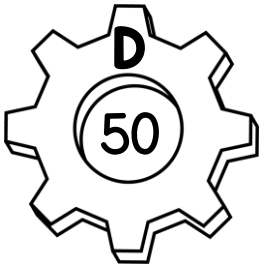
D. A ziggurat was a religious temple.



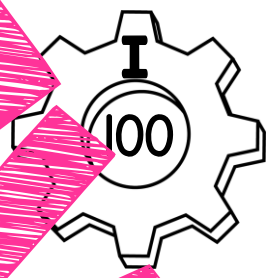
E. Most ziggurats were built on one level.



F. Mesopotamia featured eleven major empires or civilizations.



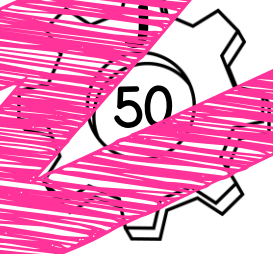
G. Ishtar was the god of [illegible].



H. Sumerians created a form of writing called hieroglyphics.



I. Very few ziggurats remain with just 32 known to exist.



J. Mesopotamia means "the land between rivers."

TOTAL: _____

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PREVIEW

TASK #5: MULTIPLE CHOICE

EARN THIS!

Complete the multiple choice questions below by circling the correct answer.

1. How many major empires did Ancient Mesopotamia have?
   A. 4
   B. 9
   C. 17
   D. 23

2. Mesopotamia was located between the ____ and Euphrates Rivers.
   A. Nile
   B. Danube
   C. Seine
   D. Tigris

3. Who was the god of earth, storms, and agriculture?
   A. Ishtar
   B. Anu
   C. Enlil
   D. Nanna

4. How many ziggurats are known to exist today?
   A. 7
   B. 18
   C. 26
   D. 32

5. Mesopotamia means "the land between ____."
   A. Trees
   B. Mountains
   C. Rivers
   D. Oceans

6. Only the ____ were allowed inside of the temple.
   A. Peasants
   B. Priests
   C. Nobles
   D. Sphinx

7. How many levels did the ziggurat at Chogha Zanbil have?
   A. 4
   B. 5
   C. 6
   D. 7

8. Sumerians created a form of writing called ____.
   A. Enlil
   B. Cuneiform
   C. Hieroglyphics
   D. Eremenanki

9. ____ was the god of the sky.
   A. Haya
   B. Ishtar
   C. Anu
   D. Nanna

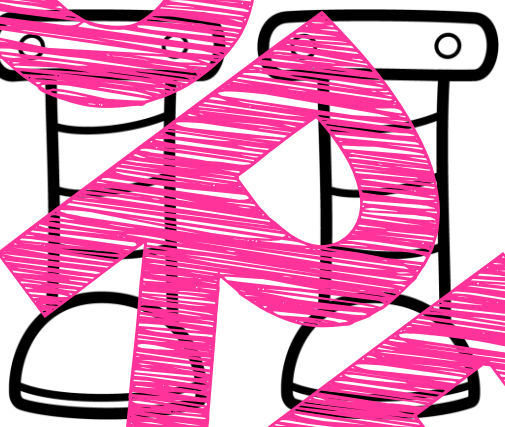
10. What is another word for gods?
    A. Ziggurats
    B. Cuneiform
    C. Deities
    D. Ishtars

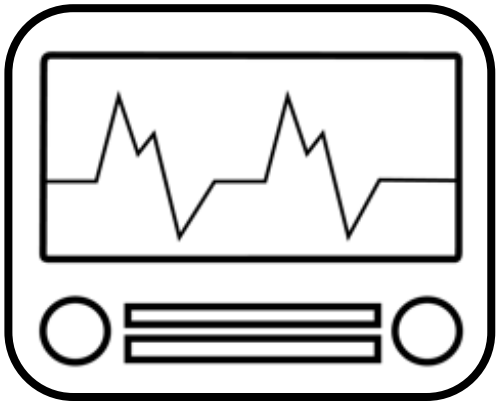
PREVIEW

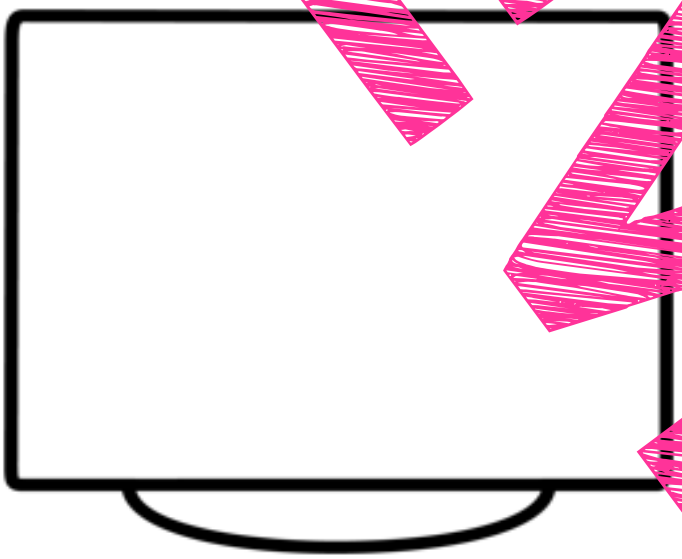
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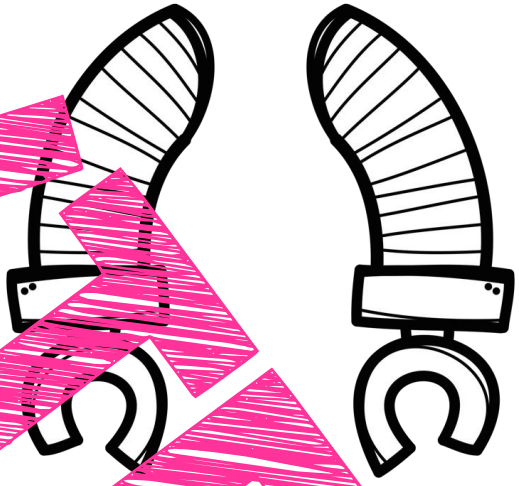
BOT CARDS

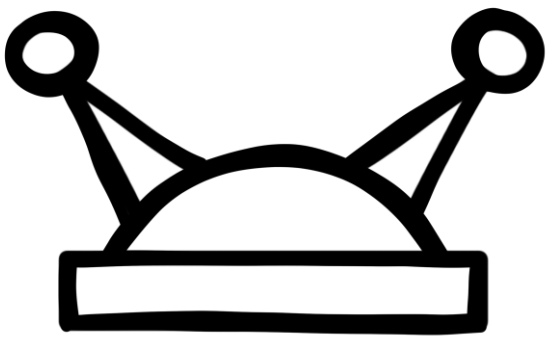
Complete all 6 tasks correctly, then color and assemble your robot.

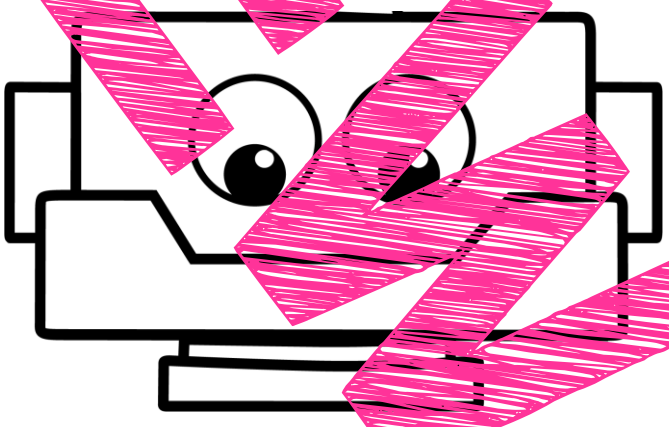










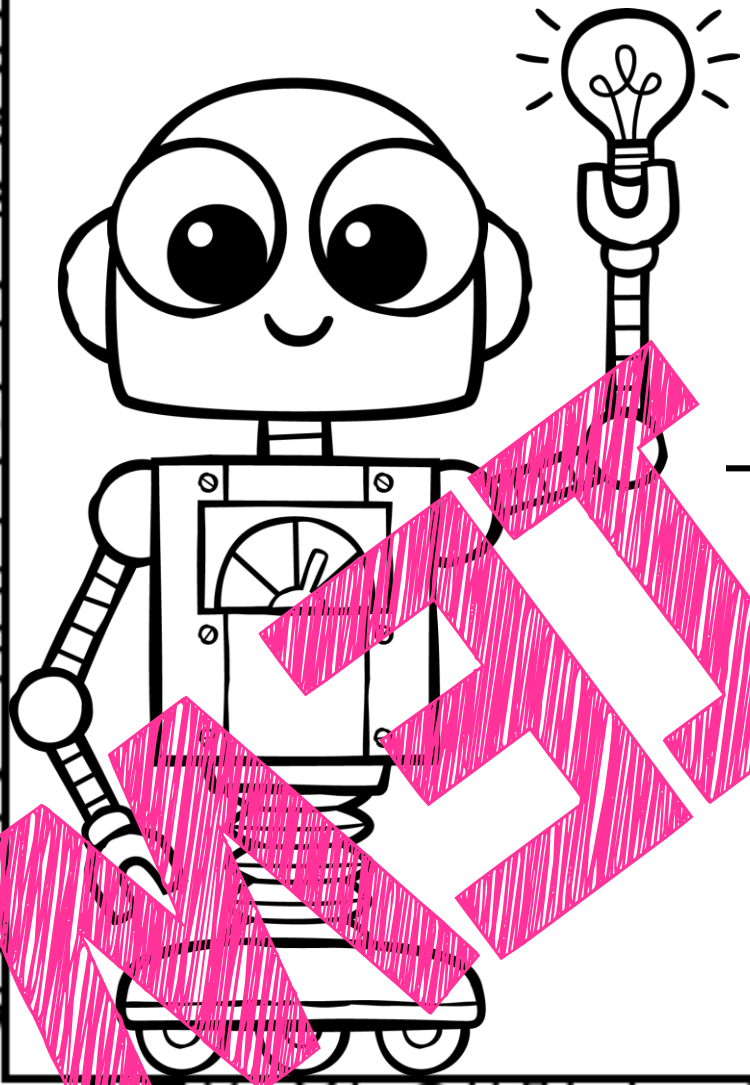


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awarded to

_____



For successfully completing 6 reading comprehension tasks.

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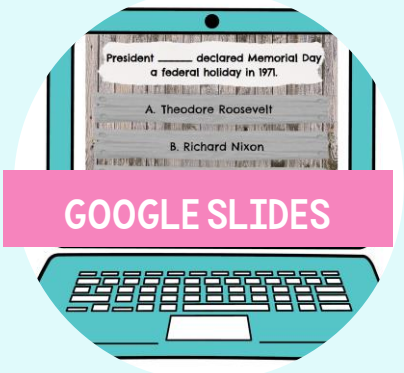








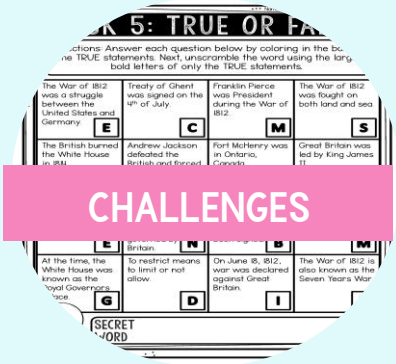












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